

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



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**Eighteen-year old gang member
pleads guilty to federal drug trafficking offense**

Junior Ry, 18, of Providence, has pled guilty to trafficking in crack cocaine. Providence Police seized crack cocaine and a handgun when they arrested Ry in August. He has admitted being a member of a street gang, the Providence Street Boyz, and was prosecuted federally under the U.S. Attorney's zero-tolerance policy toward criminal gang activity.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Ry entered yesterday before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi in U.S. District Court, Providence.

"This defendant has no prior record and is 18-years old," U.S. Attorney Corrente noted. "Although he may not be a typical federal defendant, this case is a warning that my office will not tolerate violent street gangs, and will aggressively pursue gang members who engage in criminal activity."

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose said that, on August 5, Providence Police officers arrested Ry, who was a passenger in a car that police stopped on Cranston Street. Police seized 14 small packages of crack cocaine and ten ecstasy pill from Ry, and, from the front floorboard of the car, a .380 caliber handgun.

Ry admitted that the drugs were his and that he sold about seven grams of crack a day. He also admitted owning the gun and said he had bought it as protection against a rival gang, the

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Oriental Rascals. Ry said he'd been a member of the Providence Street Boyz for about five years.

Ry pled guilty to one count of possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine. He is detained in federal custody pending sentencing, which is scheduled for March 16. The maximum penalty is 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine.

Providence Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the case, with assistance from the Providence Police Gang Squad and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose, the anti-gang coordinator, is prosecuting the case as part of the U.S. Attorney's anti-gang initiative.

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